

MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2016

Members in Attendance: Beverley Bevilacqua, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Michael Rademacher, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan Tenant, Liza Molina

Members Absent: Patrick Quinn, Cynthia DeAngelis

Others Present: Jenny Raitt, Director of Planning & Community Development
Darcy Devney, Disability Advocate
Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs

Discussion with Jenny Raitt:

Jenny said that thirteen employee's work within the Planning Department which includes the staff of the Weatherization Office. Jenny stated that her main focus in coming to Arlington was to adopt the Town's Master Plan in addition to working on improvements to all the Town's business districts and the Mill Brooke Corridor. Jenny will also be working on the Massachusetts Avenue Phase 2 Project. Jenny said that she was the Planning Director for six years at the Town of Amesbury and that she had also worked for a nonprofit agency developing affordable housing before most recently working for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Jenny said that she is very supportive of the Commission's opinion regarding not using bricks within the pedestrian path of travel. Jenny said that during FY 2017 she intends to make accessibility improvements to the circular driveway at the Senior Center Building in addition to developing plans for improvements to the lower two floors at the Senior Center Building.

Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2016:

Kerrie Fallon made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Susan James. SO VOTED

Walk Shops:

Darcy Devney said that Cynthia DeAngelis and Susan James had meet with most business owners in Arlington Heights regarding increasing handicapped parking spaces. In addition Darcy said that Cynthia DeAngelis, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan Tenant and Liza Molina talked with business owners in Arlington Center about additional handicapped parking spaces. Darcy said that she would like to be able to go back to the Board of Selectmen on either July 18th or August 8th with recommendations for increased handicapped parking.

Feast of the East:

Susan Tennant said that she will manage a table/booth at the Feast of the East event in order to share information regarding disability legislation and information about the Disability Commission.

Robbins Library Information Table:

A subcommittee of the Commission intends to meet on June 23, 2016 at the Robbins Library to discuss a plan for the table display. The display will be set up on June 30, 2016 and will run through the month of July.

Town Day 2016:

Jack Jones said that Town Day 2016 will be held on Saturday September 17, 2016 with a rain date of Saturday September 24, 2016. The Commission Members agreed to request two booths one for the Commission to provide information and the other for the Kids on the Block Puppet Show.

Variance Application submitted for a New Life and Skills Center at the Arlington Housing Authority:

Jack Jones said that the Commission sent a letter of support for this variance request to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). Jack said that the MAAB decided to grant the variance.

Commission Attendance:

The Commission discussed the importance of attendance at their meetings. Commission Members who miss and unexplained number of meetings will be asked in the future if they would rather be considered a nonvoting alternate and be willing to give up their set on the Commission.

Public Way Right of Way Updates:

Michael Rademacher said that with the exception of some wires on utility poles that no one is taking ownership of owning these wires that need to be removed in order to remove the poles the work on this project is basically complete. Michael said that the planning has started for the Massachusetts Avenue Phase 2 project that will run from Franklin Street to Mill Street. Michael said that some preliminary designs have been developed and discussed with residents. Michael said that a final meeting will be held this fall to complete the design of this project.

Other Business:

Michael Rademacher is in the process of preparing a task form for the Commission to use at their monthly meetings. The form will include topics, dates, and who will be the lead on each topic. The task form will be discussed further at the July 2016 Meeting. Darcy Devney said that a member of the Park & Recreation Commission would be available to discuss accessibility improvements in some Town Parks and also discuss new accessible playground equipment that has been recently purchased by the Town.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.